

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08
NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02 LAB-04
SIL-01 L-03 /090 W

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DEPT PASS OPIC

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, BL

SUBJ: OPIC ACTIVITIES IN BOLIVIA

REF: LANDBERG/WEISENFELD TELCON

1. SUMMARY: DURING A LUNCHEON HELD FEBRUARY 16 TO DISCUSS FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND THE PROSPECTS FOR OPIC ACTIVITY IN BOLIVIA, WILLY VARGAS (SECRETARY GENERAL FOR INTEGRATION) AND OTHER GOB OFFICIALS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN A MARCH VISIT BY OPIC COUNSEL WEISENFELD. VARGAS IS APPARENTLY NOT AWARE OF THE MOST RECENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OPIC AND THE ANDEAN PACT JUNTA, BECAUSE HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE RESOLUTION OF THE SUBROGATION PROBLEM. HE DID CONCEDE THAT IT MIGHT BE THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE TO REACH A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH OPIC BEFORE OPIC'S DISCUSSIONS WITH ANDEAN PACT OFFICIALS ARE COMPLETED. END SUMMARY.

2. IT APPEARS THAT THE GOB MAY BE READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH OPIC IN PARALLEL WITH THE DIALOGUE WEISENFELD IS CARRYING ON AT THE JUNTA LEVEL AND WITH ECUADOR. VARGAS DID NOT RULE OUT
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THE POSSIBILITY THAT A BILATERAL AGREEMENT COULD BE CONCLUDED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE JUNTA, BUT HE LAID HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF REMAINING FAITHFUL TO THE LEGAL REGIMEN OF THE ANDEAN PACT.

3. VARGAS, VALDEZ AND EGUINO (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) BELIEVE A VISIT BY WEISENFELD WOULD BE USEFUL, PROBABLY

ABOUT MID-MARCH. THEY WILL SUGGEST SPECIFIC DATES IN APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS. THE PURPOSE OF THE TALKS WOULD BE TO BRING OFFICIALS HERE UP TO DATE ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE JUNTA AND THE ECUADOREANS, AND TO EXPLORE IN GREATER DEPTH THE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING A NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE GOB. IN THE VIEW OF VARGAS AND VALDEZ, TALKS LEADING TO SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD CONSTITUTE A RENEGOTIATION OF THE NOTES EXCHANGED ON THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IN 1955.

4. COMMENT: BOLIVIA IS NOT LIKELY TO TAKE THE LEAD AMONG ANDEAN PACT MEMBERS IN DEVELOPING A RELATIONSHIP WITH OPIC. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THE GOB HAS SUFFICIENT INTEREST IN ATTRACTING NEW INVESTMENT THAT IT CAN SUCCESSFULLY BE ENCOURAGED TO SUPPORT PROGRESS MADE IN NEGOTIATIONS ELSEWHERE. IN THIS CONTEXT A WEISENFELD VISIT WOULD BE USEFUL AND WE ENCOURAGE HIM TO COME AS SOON AS THE BOLIVIANS INDICATE THEY ARE PREPARED TO RECEIVE HIM. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT VARGAS SAID THE ANDEAN COMMISSION DID NOT INFORM HIM IN RECENT REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THAT BODY ABOUT ANY BREAKTHROUGH IN COMMISSION-OPIC NEGOTIATIONS, I.E., NAMING OF A FIDUCIARY AGENT IN EACH ANDEAN COUNTRY. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FROM WEISENFELD THE CURRENT STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON ARBITRATION QUESTION AND ALSO STATUS OF OPIC'S CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE.

BOEKER

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Message Attributes

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